OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

The City of Miami Gardens was officially incorporated as the 33rd municipality in Miami-Dade County on May 13, 2003. The City comprises approximately 20 square miles and is located in the northern part of Miami-Dade County. Major roads serving the city include Interstate 95, the Florida Turnpike, U.S. Highway 441/State Road 7 and the Palmetto Expressway/State Road 826. See below map.

In the early 1960s, the Palmetto Expressway divided the area into Blacks to the south and Whites to the north. However, the north side of the Palmetto expressway was later integrated by the later 60's. The area south of the Palmetto Expressway, known as Bunche Park, included a shopping center for Blacks only that included a theatre, skating rink, drug store, night club, grocery store, Daily Delight, barber shop and a beauty shop. The site is now the City's park of that name. To the north, the Carol City around Miami Gardens Drive/N.W. 27th Avenue and N.W. 27th Avenue was a major commercial/retail center that failed to incorporate as a new city in the early 70's. Again, in 1996, the residents voted against the City of Destiny which was Miami Gardens' original name. The area and the main shopping center deteriorated and is now in the City's Vision as a redeveloped town center. The Carol City area is now also a potential site for transit oriented development via the proposed MetroRail North Corridor Extension.

Today, the City of Miami Gardens is the third largest city in Miami-Dade County. Miami Gardens has two large industrial parks strategically located on the Palmetto Expressway. The City is the home of Dolphin Stadium, host stadium to the Miami Dolphins and the Florida Marlins. Calder Race Course, a premier equestrian race track is also located within the City. Miami Gardens is also home to two notable institutions of higher learning, Florida Memorial College, and St. Thomas University.